

Claims

1. A computer based training method carried out by a computer used by a student,

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wherein the computer is a client computer and the method comprises the steps of a server-based training system dynamically downloading training content to the client computer in response to student instructions received by the client computer.

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system downloads a control program, a content data file, and a navigation frame program to the client computer, and the step of downloading content comprises the sub-steps of:

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the navigation frame program notifying the control program of the need for content according to a student request, and

the control program requesting the content from the system according to the content data file.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content data file defines the location of selected content on the system.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the content data file relates to one or more learning object, each learning object containing a plurality of learning points.

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5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the system also downloads a content frame program for a screen frame dedicated to output of content.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the control program is registered in the client computer as a frame program, and its frame dimensions are such that the frame is hidden from the student.
- 5 7. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the navigation frame program establishes a frame in the client computer for navigation user interaction independently of current content.
8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the navigation frame program
10 notifies the control program of a next selected content according to a student request.
9. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the navigation frame program
15 operates independently of the content frame program.
10. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the system downloads an
information frame program which establishes a frame in the client computer
for student selection of access to requested auxiliary information resources
separate from the content defined in the content data file, and said
20 information frame program requests relevant URL's from the control
program.
11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the information frame program
notifies the control program of requested resources, and the control program
25 directs access to the URL's of the information frame.
12. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the information frame program
operates independently of the content frame program.

13. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the system downloads a progress variables frame program, said program establishes a hidden frame in the client computer, and receives updates to course progress variables as a student progresses through a course.
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14. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the navigation frame program updates said progress variables, and said updates are performed when a new learning point is activated.
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15. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the system stores information resource settings accordingly to a student registration configuration and each learning object as represented by the content data file, and the system downloads said setting for the information frame program.
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16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the settings are embedded in the content data file, and the control program parses the content data file to obtain the settings in response to a request from the information frame program.
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17. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system downloads a start document at the start of a course, the start document defines an initial screen display and identifiers of progress variables to be updated with assistance from the progress variables frame program.
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18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the system also downloads command line parameters indicating the location in the system of the content data file.
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19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the system downloads the control program after downloading the command line parameters, and the control

program parses the command line parameters to determine the location of the content data file.

20. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at the start of a course the control
5 program parses the content data file to locate an identifier for a content map
and causes the content map to be downloaded, and the content frame
program allows student selection of desired content.
21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein initial content is downloaded in
10 response to a student selection using the content map, and subsequent content
is selected in response to student inputs for the navigation frame program.
22. A computer based training method carried out by a client computer used by a
15 student and a server-based training system, the method comprising the steps
of:
- the system downloading a control program and command line parameters to
the client computer, the control program being a frame program having a
hidden frame;
- 20 the control program parsing the command line parameters to determine the
location of a content data file and requesting the system to download said file;
- the system downloading a navigation frame program which generates a
25 navigation frame on the client computer,
- the student selecting desired content by making selections in the navigation
frame, the navigation frame program notifying the control program of the
selections, the control program parsing the content data field to determine

location of said content, and the control program requesting said content from the system; and

the navigation frame program updating course progress variables as fresh content is downloaded and played.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the method comprises the further steps of the system downloading a content frame program, said program establishing a frame for output of said content and notifying the control program of content-related student requests.

24. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the method comprises the further steps of the system downloading a progress variables frame program, said program establishing a hidden frame in the client computer, and the control program parsing said progress variables frame program to satisfy system tracking requests.

25. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the method comprises the further steps of the system downloading an information frame program, said program establishing an information resources frame with URL buttons, and the control program accessing information resources in response to student pressing of said buttons.

26. A computer based training system comprising:

means for accessing content for a training course;

means for dynamically downloading said content to direct progress of a course on a client computer in a manner as claimed in any preceding claim.